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| **LEANNA M.G. CUMBER**  Council Member  District 5  EMAIL: LCUMBER@COJ.NET |  | 117 West Duval Street  City Hall, Suite 425  Jacksonville, Florida 32202  OFFICE: (904) 255-5205 |
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| **OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL** |
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May 12, 2020

3:00pm

**Meeting Minutes**

**Small Business Mortgage and Rent Relief and other Relief**

**Meeting date**: May 8, 2020

**Start Time**: 3:00pm

**Topic:** To discuss further relief measures for for-profit and not-for-profit small businesses

**Location**: Remote Meeting

**Attendance**: Council Member LeAnna Cumber (District 5), Council Member Sam Newby (At Large – 5), Council Member Reggie Gaffney (District 7), Council Member Ron Salem (At Large – Group 2), Council Member Aaron Bowman (District 3), Council Member Al Ferraro (District 2), Council Member Dan Becton (District 11), Council Member Terrance Freeman (At Large – Group 1), Council Member Ju’Coby Pittman (District 8), Council Member Garrett Dennis (District 9), Council Member Rory Diamond (District 13), Patrick Greive (Director of Finance & Administration) and others

**Meeting Convened**: 3:00pm

Council Member Cumber called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for attending. CM Cumber said she has filed the Small Business Mortgage/Rent Relief bill and it will mirror what was previously done with the individual relief program, providing $1,000 to 40,000 households. Goal is to help small businesses in this very specific way, using funds that had already been appropriated for small businesses.

Patrick (Joey) Greive stated that the amount would be a $2,000 grant per small business. One potential route to get the funds into the community would be to utilize FIS or possibly automate the process even more. Once City Council decides the criteria, the Administration will need 7 to 10 days to get the program set up.

CM Salem would like to see a portion carved out for sole proprietors or $3,000,000 per defined group based on number of employees. For example 0-25, 25-50, 50-100 employees. He then asked if this program should be for those businesses who did not qualify under the Vystar program.

CM Cumber said she is reluctant to punish Small Businesses that receive Vystar funds because that program is a loan, not a grant. She added that we can certainly sit down with administration and look at carving out funds for sole proprietors.

CM Gaffney asked if we can consider this program for Churches, 100 people or less.

CM Cumber said these were good points and that Churches, under 100 people, may already qualify under the program.

CM Becton stated that doing the math, 4500 applications. He would like to consider sole proprietors who work out of their homes.

CM Cumber stated that the household mortgage relief program was for sole proprietors without brick and mortar business. Most restaurants have between 70 and 100 employees. We need these businesses to hire back these employees to get them back to work. This program is open to sole proprietors. We need to make the white paper more explicit. A requirement is that the funds are used to pay a mortgage or rent.

Mr. Greive says they must be a Duval County Resident. Address must match.

CM Cumber said that maybe we should have businesses use their business address.

CM Bowman stated that we could have done more than the $9,000,000. This amount may not be enough but it’s a good start. He also suggested that we need to know where the individual funding of $40,000,000 is going. What areas? Should we use all the funds now, Is this enough? What about the elderly? Discussion is just starting.

CM Cumber said that we are not done. Once businesses open up, they are not going to be “business as usual”.

CM Ferraro is supportive of the bill but believes that businesses with 70 to 100 employees are big businesses. Believes we have other folks who are hurting.

Mr. Greive stated that this program will mirror the FIS program except for handle more of the process online and require online certifications.

CM Diamond stated that this is a great bill that will be very helpful at the beach.

CM Boylan is fully supportive. Just wants to make sure we are helping as many people as possible. He would like to see us parcel the funds based on business size.

CM Cumber said we will look at what the universe of small businesses looks like and look at dividing it up.

CM Freeman has asked to be a co-sponsor. He expressed that furloughed individuals are making more money now than when they were working. Feels like we are neglecting some areas and looks forward to continuing the conversation in Finance Committee.

CM Dennis wants to help the people in our city who are struggling. He doesn’t believe that these funds should be for people who have mortgages.

CM Cumber stated that the individual program was for mortgage, rent and utilities. We don’t want to leave out businesses. Mortgage and rent go together.

CM Becton: Banks and commercial property owners like Sleiman are waiving and deferring rent.

CM Pittman would like to be a co-sponsor.

CM Cumber said that she looks forward to additional discussions in Finance.

**Meeting adjourned**: 3:58pm

**Minutes**: Minutes completed by Debbi Pataky, ECA District 5

***The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments of this meeting, please listen to the audio recording.***

The following items have been submitted for Public Record. Please contact legislative services for these items: 1) Meeting Notice 2) Meeting Minutes 3) Audio CD

For additional information or correspondence, please contact Debra Pataky, Executive Council Assistant at (904) 255-5184.

LC/drp

cc: Council Members and Staff

Cheryl L. Brown, Director/Council Secretary

Jessica Matthews, Chief, Legislative Services Division

Crystal Shemwell, Supervisor, Legislative Services Division

Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division

Kristi Sikes, Chief, Administrative Services Division

[CITYC@COJ.NET](mailto:CITYC@COJ.NET)

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